








# Camping and Houseboating

## The Basics

-  You need a boat, all overnight sites are accessible by water only
-  All sites are free
-  All sites are occupied on a first-come/first-served basis; no reservations
-  Obey all site closure signs
-  Food storage – all food, garbage, and equipment used to cook and store food must be kept in a vehicle, vessel, metal food locker at campsite or hung 10' high and 10' out from a pole or tree. This regulation applies throughout the park.
-  Group sizes – recommended group sizes
  - small tent site – 9 people
  - large tent site – 18 people
  - houseboat site – 2 houseboats maximum

## Fires

-  Use only dead and downed wood, including driftwood, except within developed areas and where posted
- Cutting live trees or dead standing trees is prohibited
- Fires are permitted in metal fire rings or existing rock rings. Construct no new rock rings. Campfires must be completely extinguished when you are not at the site.
- Overnight docking is permitted at Kettle Falls, but no overnight docking is permitted at park visitor centers.
- Leaving property unattended in an overnight site for 24 hours or more is illegal.
- Use tent pads where provided – no digging, trenching, or leveling allowed.



- Overnight use requires a free, self-registration permit
- Overnight permits are issued in person or by self-registration.
- Permits and instructions can be obtained at all park visitor centers and boat ramps, Crane Lake Ranger Station, Crane Lake Department of Natural Resources public boat ramp, and Woodenfrog State Campground.
- Only one permit for each party (individual or group) per stay is required.
- Each party (individual or group) must display a permit at their site on the food locker, a tent or houseboat.
- Permits **ARE NOT** a reservation for a site!
- Park staff at visitor centers will not know which sites are available as a result of this permit system.
- Rangers in the field may ask to see your overnight permit. Failure to possess and display a valid overnight permit may result in a citation.
- Permits are not required for day use.
- Between May 15 and September 15, tent and houseboat camping within the park is limited to 14 days at a specific site and 30 days in a calendar year.

## Know where you can go!



Campers and houseboaters may not stay overnight:

- at day use sites
- within 200 yards of a designated tent, houseboat, or day use site
- on private or leased land
- within 1/4 mile of any park-developed area (e.g. visitor center)



Tent campers use tent sites. Tent campers cannot stay overnight in houseboat sites.



Houseboaters use houseboat sites. Houseboaters cannot stay in tent sites.

## Do bears use sunscreen, drink pop, and eat dog food?

**Did you know that approximately 150 black bears live in Voyageurs National Park? Bears are neat to see but you don't want them to visit your campsite. To prevent human-bear incidents, the park provides metal food lockers at most developed campsites for safe storage of food, cooking supplies, and other items. Black bears will try to eat things that smell good or look interesting.**

To help keep bears out of your campsite put the following items in the food locker or hang your pack from a tree:

- closed or open cans or bottles of beer, pop, and juice – especially beer. Bears will bite into a closed can if it smells sweet or if they recognize it as something that tasted sweet before.
- dish soap and hand soap – loved by bears, especially the tasty lemon scent
- water bottles or water jugs
- all food; coolers fit right into the food locker
- dog food in a can or bag, it does not matter, bears will eat it
- all food scraps and trash
- all pots, pans, utensils, and cooking stoves. You cannot scrub the smell off pans or stoves.
- toothpaste – children's toothpaste flavors smell especially tasty
- sunscreen
- bug spray, yes bears may bite into your can of bug spray
- your catch of the day – don't leave food, bait or the catch of the day in your boat or out in camp
- backpacks or containers that once held food
- clothing worn during cooking
- any kind of candy or gum wrappers. Patrol rangers have received reports of boats being ripped apart for a candy wrapper in a boat compartment. Leave boat compartments open at night so bears will not rip your boat apart to see what is inside. Better to let them look and not damage your boat.
- take motor oil and gas with you in the boat when you go fishing; bears bite into gas cans and oil cans

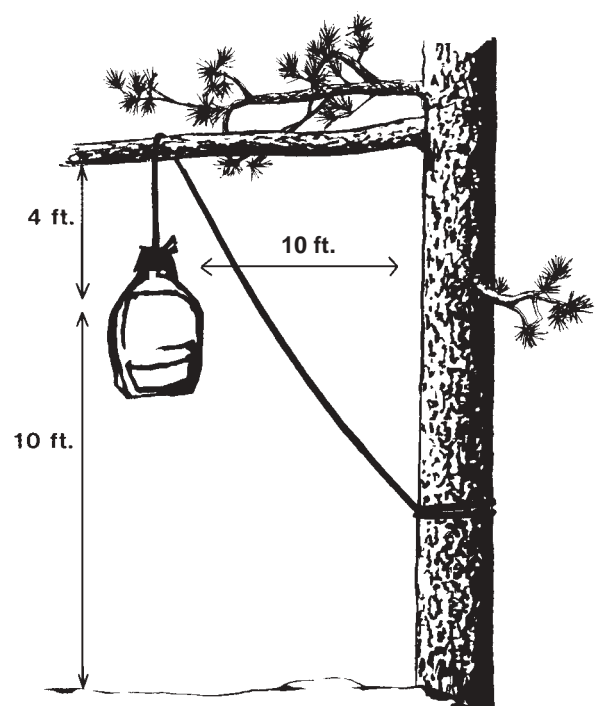


If an item smells, looks, or tastes remotely like food or is something fun to play with, secure it in the food locker. Clean campsites and the use of food lockers help prevent campsite closures and the trapping and relocation of bears.

If you plan to camp in the backcountry or at a site without a food locker, you must hang your pack with the items listed above as shown in the diagram at right.

When camping in bear country keep these things in mind:

- do not cook food near your tent
- do not keep food in your tent
- pack out your garbage when you leave; do not bury it
- do not feed bears or other wildlife
- dispose of fish entrails in deep water; pack out shorelunch grease
- frighten black bears by yelling, banging pans together or throwing rocks
- if a bear woofs, snaps its jaws, or slaps the ground, you are too close
- "playing dead" is NOT appropriate behavior during black bear attacks, fight back using whatever is available.



## Did you encounter a bear?

Report all bear incidents to a park visitor center.